

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

Florida

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
May 28, 1936

City Grants Use of Property Near Park For Negro Pavilion

Use of a strip of city property, just west of Wilder Park, for the construction of a pavilion for the use of local negro citizens in holding religious, educational and recreational meetings, was authorized yesterday afternoon by the City Commission.

The Rev. W. C. Sale and Dr. E. D. Solomon, Baptist ministers, appeared before the commission to voice the request for use of the property. They said the pavilion would be built with funds raised by subscription throughout the State.

The building is sought as a permanent meeting place for colored citizens, and is needed for holding the National Baptist Convention (colored) in September. The convention will draw 8000 to 10,000 persons, it was said.

Rev. Mr. Sale said it is proposed to have a building with a seating capacity of 5000 persons.

He and Dr. Solomon proposed that the city take over the property upon construction of the building and maintain it for use of the negro citizens.

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

New Orleans, La., Item
March 22, 1936

Big Negro Rally To Be Held Sunday

A Negro rally under auspices of the National Youth administration and the Richard Berthelot Lemann Playground association will be held at the playground all day March 22. James A. Lewis, Jr., chairman of the activities, announced today.

Lewis predicted that more than 5000 Negroes will be attracted by the athletic program which will include an all morning tennis tournament between members of teams representing Lafon school, Xavier university, Lemann playground and the Revelers.

Other events on the program will be a track meet, contests in basket ball, volley ball and indoor baseball, music, folk dances and speeches.

Among the speakers will be John A. Zimmerman, assistant state director of the NYA; James A. Lewis, Jr., Professor George Longe and Dr. J. A. Hardin. The Berean and Sylvania Williams scout troops will also parade.

The arrangement of the program is in charge of Raymond Tillman and the committee for the day is composed of Albert N. Rieras, Lillian Guichard, Mrs. Albert Wicker, Wilbur Perez, E. A. Roemond, Allie Kahn and Dr. Hardin.

Louisiana

Iowa.

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA.

NONPAREIL

JUN 20 1936

The WPA, under direction of E. H. Berger, is carrying on an extensive recreational program. At nine centers, including one for Negroes. There are facilities for playing horseshoes, croquet and softball. At least four workers are maintained at each center to supervise play and to take care of the equipment. Last week an aggregate of 10,000 persons used these play facilities. They are open to adults and children alike. The children have been quick to take advantage of this program. Adults have been slower. A game of softball three or four nights a week can keep a man from getting too thick around the middle. And many an oldster would get more fun out of knocking a croquet ball or tossing horseshoes than he now derives from atrophying on the front porch.

JUL 11 1936

Final Property Purchase Would Give Negroes Pool

Could Be Completed Within Ten Days, Manager Admits—Community Center Problem Rests

Negro children, unable to gain admittance to any of the swimming pools in Hackensack, today were cast-
ing glances at a nearly completed wading pool on the Negro playground under construction at Second and Clay Streets.

The pool has been nearly finished for a long time, but their hopes were stirred when they saw members of the National Youth Administration unit, who have been busy on the playground for some time, devote their efforts to the pool.

Inquiry at the office of City Manager Wilder M. Rich failed to reveal the reasons for this unexpected resumption of activity. While this part of the playground is located, he had heard nothing from the agents.

The property is understood to be in the market at a price of \$2,100. Rich did not disclose the amount of the offer made, but it is believed to have been considerably lower.

The Manager knew nothing about resumption of work on the pool. He recalled, however, that it had been well on the way to completion when work was halted, and said that, if the City acquired the property, and the Council wished to push the pool, it could probably be completed within ten days.

AWAIT RELIEF

On the strength of this information, it appeared that the hopes of the Negro children, that they would have a wading pool before the hot weather is over, might be realized.

The City originally obtained the consent of the owner of the four lots on the northeast corner of Clay and Second Streets to have them used as part of the playground. The owner died last fall and the estate is now anxious to dispose of the property. Together with an adjoining plot of

approximately the same size it comprises the tract long under consideration as the site of a playground and community center for the use of the Negro population. These other lots are being acquired by the City through foreclosure.

Nothing further has been heard about this community center since a Citizens Advisory Committee, headed by Philip C. Staib, recommended that the original project be abandoned.

This committee, appointed by the Mayor and Council, to study the possibility of the City sponsoring a center building, recommended instead that efforts be made to acquire the corner parcel for which Rich is now negotiating, and build on the resulting plot, about 100 by 190 feet, a shelter house.

GYMNASIUM SOUGHT

Another recommendation was the addition of a gymnasium to the First Street School, to serve the children during school hours for physical training, and the adults as a meeting place at night.

Both recommendations were submitted to the City Council.

The addition to the school, the City officials felt, was a matter for the Board of Education, and they therefore suggested to the committee members that they take the matter up directly with the trustees.

As far as can be learned, no formal request for the addition has yet been filed with the Board.

Immediate action to grant such a request, is not likely. The Board has just appointed a new principal for the school, and will probably not care to act until he has made his own recommendations for improvements.

Since he will have no opportunity to see the school in operation until the middle of September, his recommendations are not expected in time to permit carrying them out until next year.

Trouble From Whites Fails To Materialize As Negro Country Club Opens In Westchester

the facilities of the club would be extended beyond golf and dinner-dancing greeting which was hinted by handball, tennis and the like. socially prominent white Westchester County residents to the visitors enterprise are thus far, John W. to the Rising Sun Golf and County Club, of Pelham, chairman and originator of the idea; Paul Bray, Yonkers, some 500 braved the pouring rain to make their first visit to the Shelton, Henry Nelson, Avis Field, newly-acquired country club. Police George Wilson, Charles Only and were on hand throughout the day but James Smith. Their wives poured their presence was unnecessary as tea for the visitors. Ralph Mann's there was no trouble. Rhythm Rascals entertained.

Even the Ku Klux Klan's alleged plans to burn fiery crosses on the grounds dissolved with the rain. The only trouble reported was by the Negro visitors from Westchester opening, formally, with a New Year's eve party for the members.

New England, Greater New York and New Jersey, many of whom confused by the directions to the club, found themselves on the wrong roads in many instances. They reported, almost without exception that they could see the hostility manifested when they stopped at gas stations or asked white motorists for directions to the club. Many reported they were sent "round 'n' round" the county, some not even reaching their destination but going home in disgust at their failure to find the place.

Those who did manage to follow the directions correctly found the Pine Bridge road, which leads directly to the club, crowded with the cars of white spectators who had come to the scene attracted by the wide publicity given the opening, hoping to see some "fun". Instead they left, marvelling at the quiet and dignity of the occasion.

Inside, in the ballroom which leads directly off the polished flag-stoned lobby, James Smith, master of ceremonies, introduced the men who have already begun the necessary financing of the plan. James Egert Allen, president of the New York Chapter of the N. A. A. C. P. explained to the guests assembled that "Negroes have administrative ability and can operate their own affairs." He said that it is expected that the "emergence from the recent depression" will enable the better class of people in this section to adequately support the club. At least a fifth of the number present evinced their intention of becoming members by signing up. Shares at two hundred dollars each assure those interested of perpetual membership for themselves and families. The prospective rate of dues is not prohibitive. Mr. Allen went on to say that

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
February 26, 1936

Plans Being Drawn for First Swimming Pool for Negroes

Plans for the city's first Negro swimming pool, to cost in excess of \$13,000, were being drawn yesterday by public works officials as preliminary to inauguration of the project through the WPA by March 1. ed in and picked up all rocks. Swings and a giant stride have been installed at the playground, which has been landscaped and beautified with trees and shrubbery. A retaining wall is also being built.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer

May 1, 1936

EXERCISES OPEN NEGROES' PARK

New Morgan Playground to Be Presented School as Part of Formal Program.

The state works progress administration has made a \$12,230 federal appropriation available, a sum to be augmented by private donation.

Negro citizens as sponsors will contribute \$1,569.50 to the project to bring the total planned expenditure to \$13,569.50.

The swimming pool will be erected at the Fourteenth Street School. Under present plans the project will be completed in time for summer use.

Although the city has established several recreational centers for Negroes, the proposed swimming pool will be the first project of its nature. It is expected to prove an invaluable recreation here.

George W. Coan Jr., state works progress administrator, reportedly has been chiefly instrumental in the project's development. He is known to regard the projected program as one of major importance to the city.

Charlotte, N. C. News

April 17, 1936

Morgan Negro Play Center To Open May 1st

Members Of Park Board Will Attend Formal Ceremonies--Playground Equipped, Beautified.

Plans for the opening of the Morgan negro playground on May 1 are being perfected by representatives of the Morgan school, Walter J. Cartier, superintendent of the park and recreation commission, said today.

Members of the park board will attend the opening ceremonies and take part in the program.

Finishing touches are now being put on the playground. Yesterday the ground was dragged and 250 students from the Morgan school pitch-

North Carolina.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
May 7, 1936

BATHING BEACH FOR NEGROES PROVIDED

Lake Jones Near Wilmington to Be Fitted Up for Their Pleasure

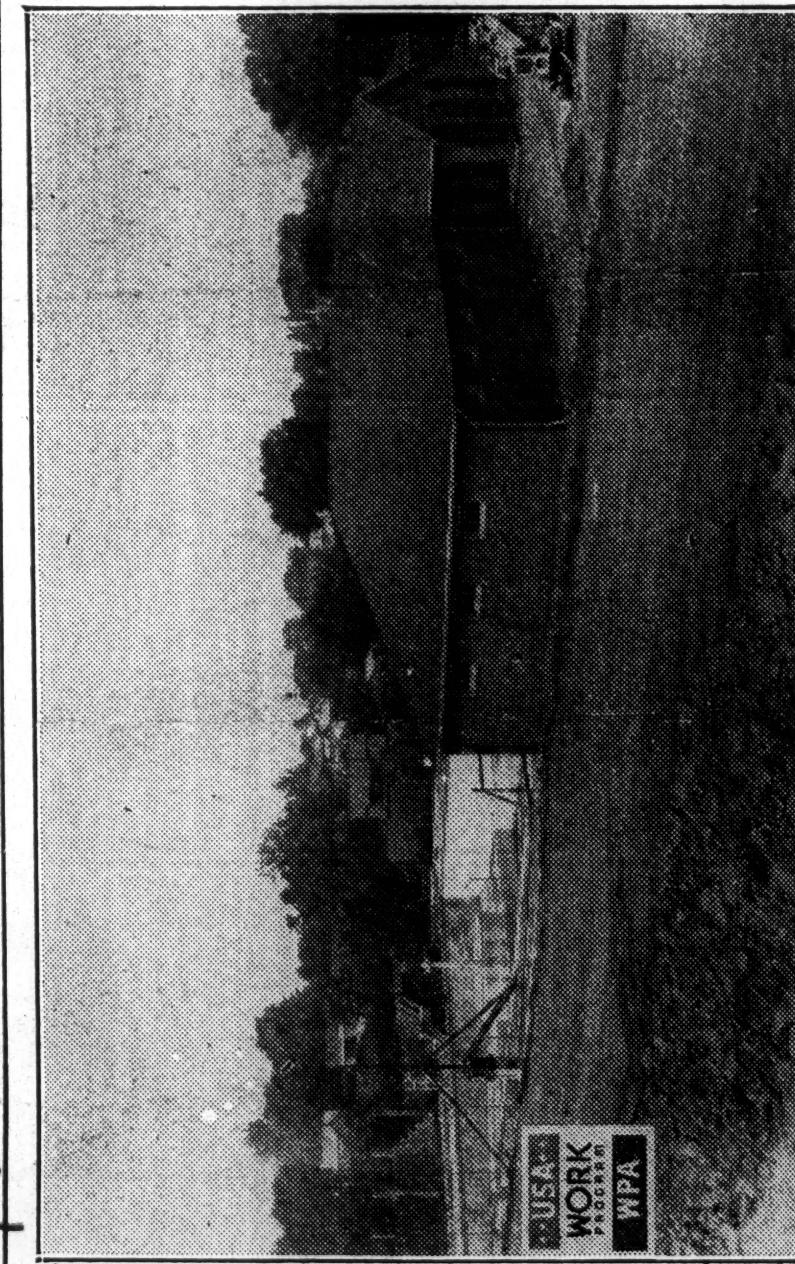
Daily Dispatch Bureau,
In The Sir Walter Hotel,
By J. C. BASKERVILL

Raleigh, May 7.—An entirely separate lake, with a bathing beach, picnic grounds, with cabins and bath houses, will be provided for the Negroes of Bladen and Columbus counties by the Resettlement Administration in connection with the Lake Jones and Lake Singletary development project, it was announced today by Homer H. B. Mask, regional director of the Resettlement Administration here. For Lake Jones will be set aside and developed as a recreational center for the Negroes of that section of the State. It will now be possible for them to hold their annual Independence Day celebrations at Lake Jones on July 4, instead of holding them on July 6 at White Lake and at Lake Waccamaw, as they have been doing for some 50 years.

As a result of the present system of highways, Lake Jones will be more accessible to the colored people of Columbus and Bladen counties now than White Lake and Lake Waccamaw were a few years ago, it is pointed out. The Negroes in surrounding counties, including Sampson, Pender, Robeson and Cumberland, are also much interested in this new recreational project, Mr. Mask said.

Lake Singletary, about 15 miles northeast of Elizabethtown, will be developed as a recreational center and bathing beach exclusively for white people, however, Mr. Mask said. A recreational building will be constructed, as well as cabins and bath houses with an electric light plant, water and sewage systems. This lake and beach is expected to provide long needed recreational facilities for the white people in that area.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
June 11, 1936



Pictured above are the completed swimming pool and bathhouses at the recreation center for Negroes being built at the end of Worth Street by WPA at a total expenditure of \$125,000. Raleigh's most ambitious WPA project for Negroes, the center will include playgrounds, athletic fields, tennis courts, a basketball court, a baseball field, and a dance pavilion in addition to the swimming pool and bathhouses.

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Plans Being Drawn for First Swimming Pool for Negroes

Plans for the city's first Negro swimming pool, to cost in excess of \$13,000, were being drawn yesterday at the playground, which by public works officials as preliminary to inauguration of the project. A retaining wall is also being built through the WPA by March 1. Specifications when completed will be submitted to the state board of health. The project will become operative immediately after the plans are approved.

The state works progress administration has made a \$12,230 federal appropriation available, a sum to be augmented by private donation. Negro citizens as sponsors will contribute \$1,569.50 to the project to bring the total planned expenditure to \$13,569.50.

The swimming pool will be erected at the Fourteenth Street School, a formal program at 4:30 o'clock will be completed in time for summer use. Although the city has established several recreational centers for Negroes, the proposed swimming pool will be the first project of its nature. It is expected to prove an invaluable addition to the projected program of recreation here.

George W. Coan Jr., state works progress administrator, reportedly has been chiefly instrumental in the playground committee. Brief talks on the project's development will be made by Walter J. Cartier, to regard the projected program as of major importance to the city. and A. E. Spears, chairman of the negro recreation committee, Charlotte, N. C. News April 17, 1936

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Mr. Cartier has requested that all parents and friends of the negro children who use the playground attend the exercises. The speeches will be short and nothing will be offered for sale.

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By J. C. BASIC ERVIL,

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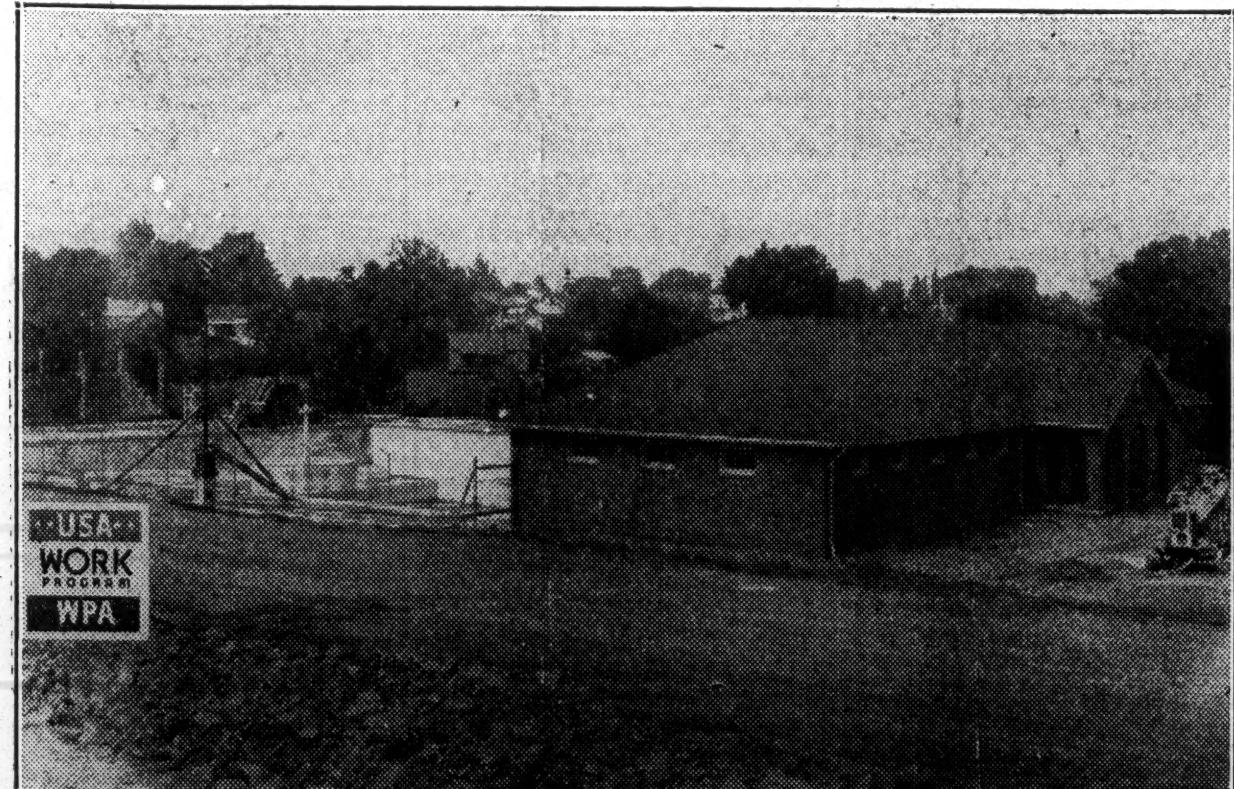
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NEGRO PARK NEAR COMPLETION



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DAVIDSON TO HEAD NEGRO RECREATION

Ossia Cotton and Emma C. Newby Give Site For Negro Children's Playground

Directors For Six Play Cen- ters Are Named—Annual Program Begins

Directors in charge of the program of supervised play at Negro playgrounds this summer were announced yesterday by C. R. Wood, city recreation director.

John W. Davidson, has been named general supervisor of all play centers for Negroes. Other directors named are: Lyon Park, Leo Townsend; East End, Ethel Hubbard, and Mittie Alston; Pearson, Emma Butler; Hillside, Sulalie Harris; Lyon Park, Adelaide Reynolds. Frank Burnette will have charge of tennis at Negro play centers.

Despite inclement weather, the summer play season got under way yesterday at all 16 of the city's playgrounds and will continue for the next two and a half months. A widely diversified program has been mapped out for the summer, including athletic contests, swimming, handicraft activities.

The vacant lot on Lindsay street between Gilmer and Macon streets, approximately 300 feet square, has been turned over to the city recreation department to be used as a playground for negro children by Ossia Cotton, of 620 East Lindsay street, and her sister, Emma Cotton Newby, of Montclair, N. J., it was announced Friday by Daniel R. Neal, city recreation director.

Much gratification was expressed over the philanthropic offer, which will provide a playground in a community that needs such recreation facilities as much if not more than any other community in the city, it was pointed out.

The formal dedication of the new playground will be held Monday afternoon, July 27, at 4 o'clock, at which time there will be a special program with a message from the donors and other talks by Mr. Neal and A. H. Peeler, supervisor of the negro division of the recreation department. Entertainment will include a novelty folk dance, musical dramatics and a wide variety of other numbers and several skits.

A. H. Headen will be supervisor of the playground, with Fannie Sizemore as assistant supervisor. Both have been with the recreation department since soon after its establishment and both have had wide experience in such work.

The new recreation center, to be known as the Cotton-Newby playground, will make three now being operated in the negro communities, the other two being at the J. C. Price school and at Nocho park. The new center will serve several hundred children.

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

North Carolina.

Albany Daily Citizen
July 30, 1936

Laudable

In the eastern section of the city the negro residents of that section are engaged in raising a fund with which to equip a park for the use of the negro children, getting them off the streets, out of hot houses, providing diversion.

White friends are contributing toward the equipping of the park.

It is easy to see the advantages of such a recreation center for negroes and we consider the move on the part of leaders of that race a laudable move.

And Silence Reigned

In contrast to the everyday recitation of half truths regarding the park situation in Oklahoma City, which were daily offered for public consumption, silence has reigned supreme since we unloosed our broadside of facts against the walls of deception and untruth.

It was genuine information to a number of whites in this city to know that the municipality had a five million dollar park system in which Negroes were not permitted to share. These figures ought to be continuously repeated. It ought to be drilled into the conscience of every white tax payer in this city that Oklahoma City provides 2200 acres of park space for white people and none for Negroes.

We made another discovery this week while in conference with federal officials. In addition to a park and its pleasure hundreds of Negroes could be working on a park project at the expense of the Federal Government if the city would provide the park. Instead of doing this, park officials are busy using taxpayers' money to bar passage into Hassman Park by setting posts in the ground across the roads that have been developed on this tract.

The records of the park board show that more than a quarter million dollars was allowed through P. W. A. grants last year for Oklahoma City parks. How much are Negro taxpayers losing because of the narrow minded attitude of the city council?

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

NEGROES AND PARKS

Oklahoma City, dominated by the white race, hasn't dealt fairly with the Negroes here in the matter of parks and playgrounds. The proportion of municipal funds expended upon such enterprises is not at all in ratio to racial numbers, but preponderantly in favor of the white citizens. The city has lagged in the matter of providing sufficient park facilities for all the people, but, in what has been done, the Negroes have been given decidedly the short end of it.

Such thoughts may have influenced the City Council in passing a resolution granting Negroes the privilege of visiting Lincoln Park, if they go in groups, and obtain an official permit for the visit. There's plenty of reason to question the constitutional authority of the council to take such action, but, what is more important, it is likely to offend the Negroes and fan race prejudice needlessly. It is evident that a degree of segregation is in the interest of both races where racial prejudice is an acknowledged factor in interracial affairs, but it does seem that Negroes should be permitted in any public park, if they are to be admitted at all, on the same basis that other citizens are admitted.

The Negroes are citizens and taxpayers. As taxpayers, they are entitled to a fair share of park facilities. If that share isn't available in parks established and maintained exclusively for their race, and the council wishes to compensate for the shortcomings by permitting Negroes to visit Lincoln Park, the privilege should be extended ungrudgingly, and not in a manner that can be interpreted as oppression of the Negroes because of their color.

Since this section and this city still regard segregation as a safeguard, which it undoubtedly is, it may be the part of wisdom to include the park system in the segregation program, but, if it isn't to be so maintained, certainly the Negro's privileges in the public parks should not be hedged about with unnecessary red tape. Good behavior is a reasonable requirement of all park visitors, and there are enough without requiring Negroes to get a ticket to the zoo or ask the mayor if they can have a picnic.—Oklahoma News.

A SITUATION NOT IMPROVED BY DELAY

Oklahoma City is making a sad mistake when it continues to procrastinate on the Negro park problem and on the Negro section expansion puzzle. Neither of these problems is improved by delay. Neither is the sort of situation will "work itself out."

Both are situations that can and should be solved intelligently while there is a disposition to be fair and reasonable.

Two things must be recognized: The Negro residents of Oklahoma City are entitled to park facilities. The Negro population must have some area into which it can expand.

It seems it would be only fair to perform on the promise to turn Hassman park to the Negroes. They were told it was to be established for them. Unless there is a more sensible suggestion for a Negro park, why should they not have Hassman park?

The city is not acting wisely when it moves to close all city parks to Negroes save Tolan, Riverside and Washington parks before it has provided the Negroes with an acceptable playground and recreation area. It is not acting wisely when it closes Lincoln park zoo to Negro visits except when the visits are made in groups by special appointment. That is reversing the sensible order of action. The Negroes should have extended facilities before their limited privileges are further limited.

This week, in Douglass highschool, the Negro population is to have the beginning of benefits from junior college courses. The experiment may be so successful that eventually there may be need for a building to house the classrooms for Negro pupils who desire this advanced schooling.

By looking ahead Oklahoma City might plan for the day when such a bulding might be the nucleus of a community of residences and business houses, when a natural outlet might thereby be provided for a cramped population.—Oklahoma City Times.

A Challenge To White Integrity

One must applaud the attitude of Councilman Robert Scott and Mayor Martin in the frank position they take regarding the right of Negroes in Oklahoma City to Hassman Park. These courageous public servants recognize that the city government does not have integrity and honor unless the municipality carries to completion its "gentleman's agreement" with Negroes to convert this city property into a Negro park.

In addition to the Mayor and Councilman Scott we know there are six votes on the council in favor of Negroes having this park site, but four of these votes reside in the pockets of timid souls who fear political reprisals if they appear at the city hall and cast their ballots according to honest convictions.

There is not a white man in Oklahoma City who does not recognize the fact that the city is morally obligated to designate Hassman Park for Negroes. In the first instance, several years ago the city council came to Negroes and asked permission to drill on the Booker Washington playground. It was the city council's proposal that all of the money derived from oil wells on this property would be used to secure a large diversion park outside the city limits for Negroes, which the Negroes would have a right to select for themselves.

Everyone knows that the Oklahoma City Negro Business League had no legal right to select and determine for the city council the particular bid which would be accepted by the council from the competing oil men. But so eager was the city council to drill on the Booker Washington park tract that they voluntarily offered to, and did allow, the members of the Oklahoma City Negro Business League to select the lucky bidder. We say here and now that W. B.

Booker motion to adopt, we find this language: "That all parks now designated for the exclusive use of Negroes shall be used exclusively by Negroes for recreation and celebration purpose, and it shall be unlawful for any white person to use said parks for such purposes to include especially Boker T. Washington, Hassman and Riverside parks."

All of the above was done in good faith until in 1934 when the Eastside Civic League suddenly thought of an expedited Negro abandonment of the fight on the then segregation ordinance. The truth had just well been told bluntly that unless they submitted to this ordinance they could not have Hassman Park. Negroes carried their fight to the supreme court of the state and won. They are today denied Hassman Park in the light of these facts, why should any city council lack the moral courage to vote for Hassman Park? So

Skirvin did not secure the right to drill on the Skirvin proposition. W. B. Skirvin Washington tract from the city council. W. B. Skirvin received his award of contract through option and election of the Oklahoma City Negro Business League. For more than two weeks his agents conferred with members of the league, prevailing upon influential members and showing the various highlights of the Skirvin proposition. We merely relate this history to show how far the city government went with Negroes at the time of the Hassman Park purchase. We want to clinch and prove the culpa-segregation ordinance. The Negroes were told bluntly that unless they submitted to this ordinance they could not have Hassman Park. Negroes carried their fight to the supreme court of the state and won. They are today denied Hassman Park in the light of these facts, why should any city council lack the moral courage to vote for Hassman Park? So

The fact is that the city has already done this. In Section man 7 of the invalidated segregation ordinance, and which far as Negro parks are concerned in Oklahoma City, white Councilman Henderson in a city hall meeting made the people in this municipality have for the past forty years

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The records of the park board show that more than a quarter million dollars was allowed through P. W. A. grants last year for Oklahoma City parks. How much are Negro taxpayers losing because of the narrow minded attitude of the city council?

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

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There is not a white man in Oklahoma City who does plenty of reason to question the constitutional authority of the council to take such action, but, what is more important, it is evident that the Negroes and fan race prejudice needlessly. It is evident that the Negroes are in the interest of both races where racial prejudice of segregation is in the interest of both races, but it does seem dice is an acknowledged factor in interracial affairs, but it does seem that Negroes should be permitted in any public park, if they are admitted at all, on the same basis that other citizens are admitted.

The Negroes are citizens entitled to a fair share of park facilities. If that share isn't available the money derived from oil wells on this property would be used to secure a large diversion park outside the city in parks established and maintained exclusively for their race, and the council wishes to compensate for the shortcomings in the park to visit Lincoln Park, the privilege should be extended ungrudgingly, and not in a manner that can be interpreted as oppression of the Negroes because of their color.

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Prejudice is indeed a terrible and unthinkable thing if upon this statement of fact there is a member of the city council afraid to vote for Negroes to have Hassman Park. The fact is that the city has already done this. In Section 7 of the invalidated segregation ordinance, and which far as Negro parks are concerned in Oklahoma City, white Councilman Henderson in a city hall meeting made the people in this municipality have for the past forty years police to regulate those who abuse public hospitality, that should be a reasonable requirement of all park visitors, and there are 7 maintained, certainly the Negro's privileges in the public parks should not be hedged about with unnecessary red tape. Good be the city council to drill on the Booker Washington Park should be tract that they voluntarily offered to, and did allow, the members of the Oklahoma City Negro Business League to police to regulate those who abuse public hospitality, and enough without requiring Negroes to get a ticket to the zoo or ask the members of the Oklahoma News. enough if they can have a picnic.—Oklahoma News.

A SITUATION NOT IMPROVED BY DELAY

Oklahoma City is making a sad mistake when it continues to procrastinate on the Negro park problem and on the Negro section expansion puzzle. Neither of these problems is improved by delay. Neither is the sort of situation will "work itself out." Both are situations that can and should be solved intelligently while there is a disposition to be fair and reasonable. Two things must be recognized: The Negro residents of Oklahoma City are entitled to park facilities. The Negro population must have some area into which it can expand. It seems it would be only fair to perform on the promise to turn park to the Negroes. They were told it was to be established for them. Unless there is a more sensible suggestion for a Negro park, why should they not have Hassman park? The city is not acting wisely when it moves to close all city parks to Negroes save Tolan, Riverside and Washington parks before it has provided the Negroes with an acceptable playground and recreation area. It is not acting wisely when it closes Lincoln park except when the visits are made in groups by special appointment. That is reversing the sensible order of action. The Negroes should have extended facilities before their limited privileges are further limited. This week, in Douglass highschool, the Negro population is to have the beginning of benefits from junior college courses. The experiment to house the classrooms for Negro pupils who desire this advanced schooling.

By looking ahead Oklahoma City might plan for the day when such a building might be the nucleus of a community of residences and business houses, when a natural outlet might thereby be provided for a cramped population.—Oklahoma City Times.

A Challenge To White Integrity

One must applaud the attitude of Councilman Robert Scott and Mayor Martin in the frank position they take regarding the right of Negroes in Oklahoma City to Hassman Park. These courageous public servants recognize that the city government does not have integrity and honor unless the municipality carries to completion its "gentleman's agreement" with Negroes to convert this city Booker

Booker Boker T. Washington, Hassman and Riverside parks.

"That all parks now designated for the exclusive use of Negroes shall be used exclusively by Negroes for recreation and celebration purpose, and it shall be unlawful for any white person to use said parks for such purposes to include especially

All of the above was done in good faith until in 1934 the Eastside Civic League suddenly thought of an expedient to force Negro abandonment of the fight on the then segregation ordinance. The truth had just well be out.

Negroes were told bluntly that unless they submitted to segregation by ordinance they could not have Hassman Park. Negroes carried their fight to the supreme court of the state and won. They are today denied Hassman Park because black citizens dared to contend for their constitutional rights.

In the light of these facts, why should any city councilman lack the moral courage to vote for Hassman Park? So far as Negro parks are concerned in Oklahoma City, white people in this municipality have for the past forty years

been herding Negroes like cattle. With five million dollars spent on white parks, the city council from time to time has herded Negroes from one undeveloped spot to another. First Riverside, then back south of the old Butcher packing house; then back to Riverside, then to Booker Washington, and then to nothing. There has been no fixed policy during all of these years, but always some undeveloped, unsupervised tramp rendezvous has been designated as a Negro park.

If white people in this community who go to church and pray can be satisfied with such a record, and if city councilmen are afraid to attack and obliterate such official infidelity, there is only a slight veneer between Christianity and barbarism. In the language of the Book of Books, "Upright men shall be astonished," and we wonder what there is that white people could hereafter tell Negroes in this community that black folk could afford to believe.

~~Proposed Negro Park Site Shrinks~~ ~~Black Dispatch~~ From 40 to 12 Acres

12-12-36

The city council Tuesday ordered the purchase of 12 acres of land near Eastern avenue and the Rock Island railroad tracks to be used for Negro playground.

Councilman Jack Moore several weeks ago alleged that there were forty acres available at this location for Negro park purposes, and succeeded in getting the support of the powerful Oklahoma City Times in his plans to deprive Negroes of the Hassman park.

The Black Dispatch at that time exposed the fact that no such amount of land is available at this point. It was proven by city plats that most of the contemplated purchase was the property of the Rock Island railroad.

The action of the council Tuesday proves that the Black Dispatch was correct and that the city government was, as usual, passing the buck.

Councilmen at the time of the switch claimed that they would convert Hassman park into a community camp site.

Most of the land is covered by oil and gas leases so that it can be easily seen the city is still jeopardizing the Negro's park interests in a calloused manner.

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

South Carolina

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
HERALD

MAY 24 1936

A City Park for Negroes

Donation of land for a park on Evans Street by the M. O. Gentry estate to be developed for the use of the colored people of the community starts a movement which should result in adequate park and recreation facilities for a large part of the population of this city. It should be supported by the white people for many reasons, chief of which is that the development of such a park would be an act of justice. A park with playgrounds means better health for those who use it. It means better training of youth and it means a decrease in crime.

It is understood that application will be made to the WPA for an allotment of money with which to develop this park but the pressing need is more land. A way should be found for providing the necessary acreage to be used at all times by as many as care to do so. We know of no activity on the part of civic organizations of Spartanburg that would pay greater dividends now and in future years than that of providing a generous area for this park for negroes. We know of no gift that would bring greater satisfaction to the donor than that of a few acres to be included in this park which will be deeded to the city.

The effect of parks and playgrounds and boys' clubs upon the welfare of a city was shown by Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee, a city of 575,000 population which did not have a homicide last year, in a recent speech in Philadelphia. Mayor Hoan attributed the remarkable record of his city for the observance of law and order largely to character building agencies, among them being public parks and playgrounds.

The management of the Gentry estate is to be congratulated upon emphasizing a city need and contributing to its establishment. Every effort should be made to enlarge the area of the proposed park and to secure assistance from the WPA for its development. No local project promises more for the welfare of the city and for all residents irrespective of race.

Parks and Play Grounds-1936

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
February 16, 1936

NEGROES WILL HAVE RECREATION CENTER NEGRO SCOUT CAMP WILL BE DEDICATED

Work on Project Will Begin

Tomorrow

Douglas Park Project Built by NYA Labor

Construction of a recreation center and Boy Scout camping grounds for negroes will begin tomorrow at Park by the NYA as a year-round Douglas Park. Funds for clearing camp for Memphis negro Boy Scouts, will be dedicated at 4 all between the ages of 16 and 25, o'clock this afternoon, John E. Robarts, chairman of the inter-racial activities committee of Chickasaw to Shelby County.

Ten cottages, a mess hall, a three-Scout Council, said yesterday. room caretaker's house, a baseball diamond, tennis courts and general beautification are parts of the plan to be carried out under supervision of J. A. Beauchamp, negro assist-project was built by negro boys reg-ant scout executive. The workers to be employed are from the relief rolls in the northeast corner of the park, of the county, and will average near the playgrounds of the new three days per week in actual work school. and receive \$25 per month.

The camp site will be a part of park commission have been invited the city's recreation department un-to attend the dedication, W. Gordon Morris, scout executive, said. Standard Dave Renfro, superintendent of city parks and playgrounds. Theley A. Harris, of New York, nation-project probably will be completed in three months.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessee

June 27, 1936

Overton to Help Dedicate Negro Park at Memphis

Bruce Overton, state director of the National Youth administration leaves Nashville today for Memphis where he will participate Sunday afternoon in the dedication of a park for negroes which has been developed by the NYA.

"This is the biggest and best NYA project in Tennessee and one of the best in the national NYA program," Director Overton said Friday afternoon.

By means of NYA labor the park area owned by the city but never developed has been turned into an A-1 recreational center, he explained. The NYA workers built a cabin for use by negro Boy Scouts and similar organizations, put in picnic facilities, built a caretaker's house and constructed a large playground.

While in Memphis, Director Overton will confer with NYA Director J. C. Flowers of Mississippi and Director J. W. Hull of Arkansas.

Tennessee

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
June 28, 1936

Anonymous Editorial Flays Conditions Found At Beale Street Gathering Place

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—
The following editorial was received in the Memphis World office ~~last~~ Wednesday afternoon. The writer stated that he or she desires to remain anonymous but expressed a desire that his views be publicized.

The WORLD, in its efforts to further the civic and social as well as economic development of the colored communities of Memphis particularly, has chosen to publish this article, in the hope that the colored people of this city will develop a sentiment among themselves to raise their own standards of decency and civic pride.

The editorial follows:

IS HANDY PARK A CESS-POOL?

Handy's Park, at Beale and Hernando, is supposed to be a symbol of the colored populace of Memphis. It was named in honor of a colored man who is a symbol in the field of It is situated on one of the main modern music. It represents one of the first and finest gestures of the city, and hundreds of out of city government towards recognition of the finer sensibilities of the colored populace of Memphis. The impressions these persons obtain are spread throughout the was intended to be a little spot of nation. In sheer self-defense it beauty and a haven of rest in ancomes the duty of every Negro with otherwise drab and restless back-an ounce of civic pride to be concerned to have something done to ground.

Its trees, shrubbery, grass, land- prevent Handy's Park from developing, and other features were to be put there for the purpose of developing and sustaining a many colored leaders could assign sense of civic pride, a love for beauty, and a feeling of appreciation their sentiments to the proper for Nature's handiwork in its vis- onals and obtain some regulation of the conditions obtain there. The ordinary folk know the conditions and for something different from those do not like them. Many of us won't basic ideas which underlie the ex- der why those who enjoy the dispense of building and maintaining tinction of entrance to the pres- such places. The present uses to which it is being put makes it a dis- grace to the name it bears and which is mentioned the condition of this public place which has been set aside for Memphis Negroes. To obtain a correction would be to render a real service to all the colored people of Memphis, as well as demonstrate a commendable civic pride.

It has become a loitering place for bums and touts of every de- scription, a place of refuge for a commendable civic pride.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA.
PRESS

APR 13 1936

THE PENINSULA NEGRO

The laying of the corner stone on Saturday of the colored recreation building being erected by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company was a significant event in this com-

munity. It is outstanding evidence not only of the Negro race, but also the confidence of the white man in the Negro's ability to develop definite talents inherent in his race. The life of the Negro, once regarded as inseparable from the soil, is now an integral part of industrial life as well. The part the local shipbuilding plant has played in offering opportunities and developing the particular talents of the Negro along industrial lines is noteworthy.

Among the pioneers of industry in the South, the Newport News plant early adopted a policy of employing local labor, offering both opportunities for service and training. The understanding and cooperation between the plant and its men of both races has been an outstanding contribution towards the upbuilding of this community. The gift of this recreational center is in recognition of the faithful services of the Negroes all of these 55 years of the existence of the shipyard. And as the president of the company so pertinently remarked the "loyalty, patience and service" of the Negroes has been "outstanding" during that time.

A unique feature of the center, lies in contemplated close integration of its activities with the work being done in behalf of the education and training of the Negro youth in this community. And when the whole project, now underway, is completed it, perhaps, will be the outstanding center in the State for secondary educational and recreational facilities for Negroes. The fact that men employed in the leading industrial plant will contact through this center the colored youth of the community presents an unusual opportunity for the growth among us of the fine spirit of racial cooperation that has been a part of our local history.

One has only to turn back some 75 years and see vividly pictured before him the plight of the liberated Negro who flocked to this section. Without training, without means of livelihood, and without any possessions to speak of, the one has brought to the fore the policy status of the Negro changed almost over night of the city in connection with the lake, and he was forced to rely upon himself for those

fundamental needs that had once been the concern of others. . . .

The greatest friends of the colored race are those who have afforded the untutored people opportunities to learn and develop according to the talents they possess. It required faith and vision such as officials of the shipyard have had.

Concrete evidence of fruition is a substantial background upon which to proceed to institute other training so vitally needed among the

More and more these people have grown to realize during the past few years that here in the South, their home, lies the real future of man in the Negro's ability to develop definite opportunity in line with ability. Many who have been lured to the North have returned, fully realizing that the preservation of racial integrity and the establishment of racial pride are the first objectives worthy of their most sincere efforts.

May Test Right Of Citizens To Use City Swimming Pool

Investigation Reveals That No Color Bar Exists At Shield's Lake

Interviewed by a representative of the Richmond PLANET last week, the custodian of the pool talked freely with the reporter. He outlined and explained the restrictions governing the use of the lake by bathers, but not once did he even hint that the pool was closed to citizens of color. The custodian explained that the pool or lake, and the bath house were owned and operated by the City of Richmond through the director of parks and playgrounds, but pointed out that the concession which furnishes suits to bathers was rented out by the city to the highest bidder.

Rules Very Simple

Outlining the simple rules governing swimmers in the pool, the custodian explained, when asked by the reporter to outline the necessary formalities on entering the lake, that persons in an intoxicated condition were not permitted in the pool and when they succeeded in getting by the custodian upon detection were immediately removed and ordered away; that no petting, even between man and wife, was allowed to go on in the water; that every person entering the pool must be accompanied by a swimming companion, for purposes of safety, and that every person entering the lake was required to take a shower be-

fore entering the water. Showers, he pointed out, are maintained in the bath house for this purpose. It was also pointed out by the custodian that poor swimmers were not permitted to go beyond the ropes stretched near the deep section of the pool for the safety of these swimmers.

Judging by past experiences, the colored citizens of Richmond assume that they will not be permitted to enter the lake without any other basis upon which to found that assumption. A plan is on foot now, however, to test the policy under which the lake is governed. A citizen of color, accompanied by a companion, is to go to the bath house, request admission for a shower preparatory to entering the lake and, if denied, mandamus proceedings in the federal court will be instituted to force the issue. While it is not expected that colored citizens will be able to use the lake without friction, if the contention of the petitioners is upheld by the court the city will be forced to provide a lake comparable to the one already provided wherever requested by the petitioners. The petitioners would be able to bargain with the city as to the location of the lake, due to their established right to use the one already provided by the expenditure of city funds. There is already a convenient lake in Byrd Park that would only require conditioning before it could be used for bathing purposes. Citizens point out that what they seek is not to co-mingle indiscriminately with whites, which is inconsequential, but to establish their right to the unhampered, free and unrestricted use of all city-owned facilities.

The Barraud Park Development

A COMMITTEE of citizens representing every walk of life among the Norfolk colored people, after two meetings in which thorough consideration was given every angle of the matter, went on record Monday as approving the development of Barraud Park as a recreational and athletic center. This action was an endorsement of the proposal recently urged by Mayor W. R. TAYLOR in a letter made public on July 31.

Among the objections generally made to developments of this kind are (1) that the city has no funds for the purpose, (2) that the proposal is beyond the scope of the city government's authority, or (3) that there is no pressing need for the facilities suggested. It is not unlikely that one or all of these objections may be raised against the development of an adequate athletic and recreational plant at Barraud Park.

Ability of the city's treasury to supply the needed is acute. Moreover, the improvement of this week, seems providing of recreational facilities for its citizens. Even if this were not admitted as a general principle, ately the pressing need for just such facilities as to establish its ability to undertake the project at the present time is nevertheless the precedent of long standing have been suggested for Barraud Park. In the first acquisition and improvement of numerous place, we have a high school without a gymnasium and athletic plants, largely for or athletic field of any kind. The very fundamental proposal contemplates the solicitation of WPA and PWA in the development of such benefits between white

and colored citizens. Not only has the city the right to provide these facilities, but it has a duty as well to furnish equipment and opportunity for the normal healthy development of its citizens. Neglect of this function ultimately costs the government more in crime and disease among a people lacking in healthful diversions.

TT HAS LONG ago been recognized that one of the equitable distribution of such benefits between white

privately conducted physical education program one at Barraud Park which still has no improved which is doing all that is possibly can to correct this street approaches, and for all practical purposes is shortcoming. The city's active support and aid is inaccessible to the Negro population. On the other the building of a stadium and athletic plant at Nor-hand, the public parks and recreational centers for folk Division, William and Mary College insure the whites have been improved for adequate use, and needed facilities for students of the white high school constantly receive the attention they require to make but, from present indications, the intention is to ex-them attractive and serviceable. Such disparity in elude colored citizens from enjoyment of this benefit the distribution of public benefits for recreational It is very urgent, therefore, that some similar equip-purposes should shock the consciences of even the ment be provided for colored high school students. white citizens who thus far are the benefactors of

Heretofore, football games of the Booker T. Wash-97.6 per cent of the total outlay.
ington team have been staged at the local baseball

* * * *

park, at a price that it really could not afford to pay. IT IS CLEAR that the city has the money to under* There has been but one alternative—not to have any I write its share in the development of the Barraud games at all in Norfolk. And so the team has been Park project, and with the aid of federal grants this obliged to meet terms set up by the private interests item will be relatively negligible. It is clear that the which control the park. The recent proposal to have city government has both the right and the duty to the city acquire and improve this field, in a real make provisions for recreational facilities for all its estate transfer that failed to get the necessary af-citizens. And it is even clearer that there is a crying, a firmative vote of Council, was obviously in the inter-patent and an urgent need for such est of owners of the property and of professional a plant for the use of colored people. baseball. The thought that it would improve con-There can be but one fair, just and ditions for Negro high school and college athletics humane response to the request of was negatived by the revelation that they still would the citizens' committee, acting on be required to pay exorbitant tribute for the use of the suggestion of Mayor TAYLOR, the park, when, and if, the managers found it con- and that is the immediate and the venient to let the grounds for these games. adequate development of recreation- al and athletic facilities at Barraud

THE Norfolk Virginian-Pilot listed the investment Park. The need is so great that the cost of the city recreational assets (parks, golf cost cannot reasonably be made a courses and playgrounds) in an editorial urging de- major consideration. There are development of sanitary facilities at the City Beach ir things which must be done at all February, 1935. These figures, which are from the costs, and Norfolk's colored citi- audited statement as of December 31, 1935, follow: zens believe that the Barraud Park development is one of them.

Playgrounds -----	\$ 9,138.45
Ocean View golf course-----	54,690.60
Westover Avenue Park-----	10,800.00
Memorial Park -----	145,774.37
Lafayette and other parks-----	518,321.68
Negro Bathing Beach-----	10,132.90
Jackson Park -----	57,000.00
Stockley Gardens Park-----	141,000.00
Lee Park -----	30,000.00
Washington Park -----	28,000.00
Beechwood Place Park-----	22,500.00
Pocahontas Park -----	9,000.00
Graydon Park -----	44,220.00
Seventh Ward Park-----	28,700.00
Colonial Place Park-----	4,330.00
Barraud Park -----	19,246.23
Government Park, Ocean View	110,100.00

TOTAL ----- \$1,242,954.23

Of this million and a quarter dollars invested in recreational facilities, only 2.4 percent, or \$30,379.13, is dedicated to the Negro population comprising one-third of the whole. Only the bathing beach tract and the Barraud Park land, together with about \$1,000 worth of playground equipment from all the facilities shown in the above list, are available to Norfolk's colored citizens. And these figures represent merely the cost of acquisition. Beyond buying the land for a beach, the city has not spent a penny in development and improvement. What amusement and health facilities there are have been constructed by private capital.

Moreover, nothing of a permanent nature has been